



May 13, 2009

To: First Steps Providers  
Interested Parties

From: Todd Slettvet  
Section Manager, Family Healthcare  
Office of Community Services  
Division of Healthcare Services  
Health & Recovery Services Administration

Kathy Chapman  
Manager, Maternal and Infant Health  
Office of Maternal and Child Health  
Division of Community and Family Health  
Department of Health

Subject: **Budget and Program Updates for First Steps MSS/ICM Providers**

### **MSS/ICM Budget Update**

The legislative session closed Monday, April 27, 2009. The resulting legislation requires First Steps to:

- Target funding toward pregnant women with factors that lead to higher rates of poor birth outcomes. HB 1244 Sec 209 (32), pg. 81: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2009-10/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1244-S.PL.pdf>
- Implement a 20% budget reduction effective, July 01, 2009 through June 30, 2011. This equals approximately \$8.2 million in General Fund State over the next biennium. Proposed 2009-11 Biennial Operating Budget pp 132-133 #4  
[http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/detail/2009/ho0911agydetail\\_0424.pdf](http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/detail/2009/ho0911agydetail_0424.pdf)

**Elimination of First Steps Childcare Program (FSCC)** – The FSCC program will end May 31, 2009. The last date that a childcare provider can deliver services and receive reimbursement under this program is May 31, 2009. The deadline for submitting all bills to DSHS is close of business June 19, 2009.

### **MSS Clinical Work Groups Update**

Over 50 clinicians participated in discipline-specific (CHN, RD, and BHS) iLinc meetings conducted between April 13 -21. The purpose of these six meetings was to:

- Review the definitions of the MSS risk factors,

- Define the levels of risk within each risk factor
- Review the questions on the draft screening tool for clarity and completeness

Each discipline subgroup worked on a subset of the risk factors. After all six meetings concluded, the revisions from each work group were merged into one risk factor matrix and sent to all iLinc meeting participants, as well as an additional 18 participants in an email only review group. The additional comments collected are being reviewed and incorporated into the tools as feasible.

From May 11- May 29 a rapid quality improvement cycle of pre-testing/piloting the screening tool will be conducted by a small group of providers representing different sizes, types and geographic areas of the state.

### **Infant Case Management Update**

The Eligibility Screening Tool (DSHS 13-658) has been updated. The new version has been streamlined and now includes directions for completion on the form. A DRAFT will be sent out for review and comment the week of May 11. Comments are due to June Hershey ([hershjl@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:hershjl@dshs.wa.gov)) by COB 5/20. Only comments submitted via e-mail will be considered.

### **Upcoming iLinc Meetings – SAVE A DATE!**

There are two additional opportunities to participate in discussions about program changes during iLinc meetings in the upcoming weeks. Please distribute this information to the appropriate staff and administrators within your agency who may want to participate in these meetings.

#### ***1. Data Presentation iLinc Meeting***

A data presentation by Dr. Laurie Cawthon will describe the historical data used in evaluating risk factors, risk factors and LBW by race/ethnicity, and impact of current MSS program on LBW. *Please print out documents sent in the next week in preparation for this meeting.*

#### **iLinc Meeting Date Choices:**

There will only be **two options** for providers to participate. For this reason, it is especially important that each agency choose only one time and utilize only one iLinc connection.

- Wednesday May 20 2:30-4:00 *or*
- Thursday May 21 10:30-12

#### ***2. Eligibility Criteria, Screening Tools and Fiscal Dialogue iLinc Meeting***

The purpose of this meeting will be to share the MSS and ICM eligibility criteria and screening tools, the MSS screening tool pre-testing results, and discuss fiscal and implementation expectations. *(Additional information will be sent at a later date.)*

#### **iLinc Meeting Date Choices:**

- Tuesday June 02 8:30-10:30
- Thursday June 04 1:00-3:00
- Monday June 08 1:00-3:00